



## Call for papers - Session (S2-2) Environmental and Health Standardization of Natural Resources

A recent report from the United Nations (UN, 2019) estimates that one million animal and plant species could disappear in the coming decades due in particular to the impact on the nature of urbanisation and the development of structures, the transformation of forests into agricultural land and increased chemical pollution. These impacts affect both animal and plant biodiversity, our living environment and human health. In addition to the already proven effects on health, working conditions and the living environment, the exposure of individuals to environmental contamination is becoming more and more pervasive in global debates: degradation of air quality, polluted sites and soils, or threats to drinking water quality.

It is in this context of agenda-setting – certainly accelerated by the announced effects of climate change and social mobilization – that the protection of nature and its resources (water, soil and air), under the impetus of European and international agreements, is the subject of public policies (territorialized or sectoral) and professional actions responding to two logic of action:

- the first is to green polluting practices or activities at the source in order to limit the impact of pollution on the environment; it refers to a process of *greening practices*;
- the second to define the health risk and the "acceptable level" of exposure to pollution in order to ensure its optimal management; it refers to a process of *sanitization of the environment*.

These lines of action can be mobilized at the same time through public policies or professional actions aimed at avoiding, limit or repair contamination of environment and control public health risks at the same time. That action in this area aims at compliance with certain environmental or health standards; be contractual and based, for example, on financial compensation for environmental efforts (changes in practices and technical innovations); or incentive and oriented towards information, awareness and training..., it helps to standardize the relationship between health and environment, to guide its implementation and the solutions that aim to solve them. What does it mean to set these issues on the agenda? How is the impact of activities on the environment and human health managed? For what public or professional action dynamics does this take place? Do these dynamics of support generate criticism, which ones?

The papers proposed in this session may cover different natural resources (water, soil, air) and discuss their sectoral or territorial links with different sectors of activity in agriculture or industry (mining, agro-pharmaceutical, etc.), tourism or leisure, transport or urban development, the production of drinking water or the sharing of resource uses, etc. They will concern public policies, professional or civic actions – at the level of their design or implementation – that aim to question, integrate or regulate the impact of activities on natural environments, and/or contamination of media on health. This session aims to better understand the processes of normalization of social relationships to nature and health by bringing into dialogue the heterogeneous dynamics of defining problems and solutions "health and environment" supported by public, professional or citizen action.

The contributions may concern the following three lines of questioning (non-exhaustively, in whole or in part):

Les transitions écologiques  
en transactions et actions

## Calendrier :

- **Septembre 2019**  
Lancement des appels à communication,
- **20 janvier 2020**  
Date limite de soumission
- **Février 2020**  
Réponses aux auteurs (exposés, posters)
- **Octobre 2019**  
à Mai 2020  
Inscriptions en ligne
- **du 22 au 26 juin 2020**  
Colloque à Toulouse

### **The social fabric of problems and risks (axis 1)**

Risk is a social construct made up of experiences, values and worldviews, individual and collective knowledge resulting from a confrontation of scientific and secular expertise. The contributions will be able to illustrate the heterogeneous dynamics of the social factory of risks, problems and their audiences in considering the preservation of resources or the impacts of resource contamination problems on human health. If the risk is associated with “pooling” and “visibility” of issues and their audiences (Brisson & Busca, 2019), contributions will seek to explain the power relations and tensions upon which these dynamics are based. More importantly, contributions will focus on thinking of risk as a specific mode of natural resource governance, with risk being thought of in a way that controls “undesirable” practices, legitimizes others (considered “more virtuous”) or to be criticized. The dialectic between control, legitimation and criticism will enable us to grasp the “sense of risk” in the government of natural resources, in their management and protection.

### **The preservation of natural resources, between sectors and territories (axis 2)**

The development and maintenance of economic and social activities questions the dynamics of relations between sectors, territories and the protection of natural resources: the territorial development which is still subject to such constraints as the protection of nature and its resources is often seen from the point of view of its use values alone. The contributions will thus aim to illuminate the tenuous relationship between sector-territory and nature by analyzing in particular the play of territorial negotiations and arbitrations around natural resources, taking a careful look at participation – as the very modality of nature governance – and its impact on the protection of natural resources. If participation has thus become obvious, contributions will have to question the dynamics of participation from the point of view of its organization and implementation (“who participates and by what procedure?”), its stake spaces and time scales (“what coalitions of actors and what developments?”), and its ability to engage all stakeholders in the protection of natural resources and human health (“what abilities and power relationships?”), etc.

### **Preserving natural resources: judgments and social or legal proceedings (axis 3)**

The protection of natural resources, particularly against public health risks linked to their contamination, is subject to strong standardization (identification of thresholds for pollution control, standardization of pollutant practices, etc.). In this sense, it is not subject to a crisis of governability – decisions are made on the basis of cognitive and normative frameworks to support them. However, economic development choices, nature protection policies, standards for identifying risks, the risks themselves when they are contested (or when problems are publicized in an alert dynamic) etc., are the subject of controversial debates or even strong challenges and mobilizations that can sometimes lead to a judicialization of health-environmental issues. The contributions will focus on analyzing the meaning of criticism, analyzing the dialectic between social mobilization and public intervention in the fields of the protection of natural resources and the preservation of health. How to explain such tensions? What are the knowledge and forms of expertise at play? How is criticism constructed and in what scenes does it express itself? On what feelings of injustice, criticism is built and in the name of what principles? etc.

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## **The information on the Conference**

(presentation, calls for papers, registration, etc.) is available on the website:

**<https://transitions2020.sciencesconf.org>**

Students in PhD and Master 2 are invited to register on the conference website  
(free registration subject to availability)

## Instructions:

The communication proposals for this session should be sent by e-mail to Didier Busca (didier.busca@univ-tlse2.fr) before January 20, 2020, with the subject of "Communication proposal Transitions 2020 Colloquium". They will be examined by the scientific committee of the sub-session composed of: Jean-François Barthe (sociologist, UT2J Cers), Geneviève Brisson (anthropologist, UQAR), Didier Busca (sociologist, UT2J Certop), Paolo Crivellari (sociologist, UT3 Certop), Camille Dumat (soil science, Toulouse INP Certop), Nathalie Lewis (sociologist, UQAR).

The selected papers will be organized by half-day by the extended scientific committee to the organizing committee.

Communication proposals must comply with the following guidelines: times new roman, character size 12, single line spacing, 2.5 cm margins. They include a title in bold italic (times new roman 14), mention the author(s) with footnotes their status and their institutional attachment, indicate 5 key words. Proposals have a maximum of 600 words (title, footnotes and bibliographic references included).



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